



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him,
and make Him known.

~ Gathering before the Word ~**Welcome**

Eddie Spencer

Prelude and Preparation*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

Montgomery

Lighting of the Candles

Caylin Lowder & Noah Walker

***Call to Worship**

Philippians 2:8-11

Leader: And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name,

All: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn of Praise No. 174I Stand Amazed*

MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

Scripture Reading (unison)

ISAIAH 53:1-6

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a Man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Assurance of the Gospel*Jesus Paid It All*
(see insert)

ALL TO CHRIST

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~****Word with Our Children**

Jenna Baker

Offering and Special Music*The Holy City*

Adams

Joe Morris, tenor; Kay Yates, piano

***Scripture Reading**

Matt. 26: 36-39

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Sermon

“What is the Cup?”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Sending Song No. 17**

Beautiful Savior

ST. ELIZABETH

***Prayer and Benediction**

***Postlude**

I Stand Amazed In The Presence

Gabriel

*All who are able, please stand
CCLI# 2221136

Welcome

Welcome! We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning, and hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. Visitors are asked to fill out a Visitor Information Card, located in the pew, and place it in the offering plate. Prayer Requests may be noted on the reverse side of the same card.

Wifi is accessible throughout our common areas. You may log in to First Presbyterian Guest with the password: Praise!!

Children's Activity Bags are available for children aged 3 to grade 5. They include a children's bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper.

Children's Church is available for children 4 years through 2nd grade. After the "Word with our Children," they will be escorted to their classroom on the choir hallway. Parents should report to the classroom immediately following worship to pick up their children.

A Nursery is available for newborns through age 4. It is located in the Educational Building. If you need assistance or directions, an usher would be happy to help you!



This week is our monthly 10 Cents A Meal Collection, benefitting Compassion International, Cooperative Christian Ministry, and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels. Our Youth will be the Narthex immediately following worship to collect your donations!

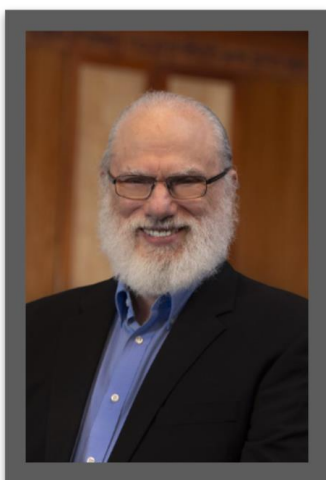
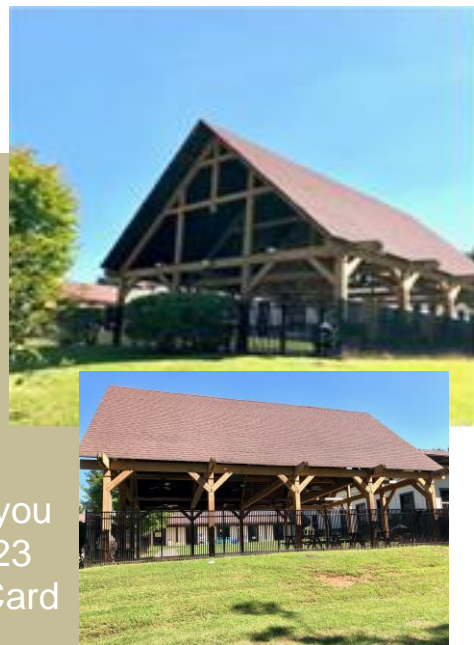
**Nominations for the
office of Elder are currently being accepted.**

Please prayerfully consider your nomination, along with the qualifications of the office.
More information may be found on the Elder Nomination Forms,
located in the Narthex.

UPCOMING

Fulfilling Our Purpose... Growing by Grace.

First Presbyterian has been gifted an opportunity not only to improve our facilities but expand our ministry capabilities! A generous couple has agreed to fund the majority of this project, which will leave us with a new outdoor pavilion dedicated in memory of Dr. Joe Crawford and in honor of his wife, Diane. If you would like to contribute toward this project, please pick up a 2023 Campaign brochure from the Narthex and return the Donation Card with your offering. Donations to date - \$6,710!



On Wednesday, March 29th, at 6:00pm, First Presbyterian will host a Seder presentation and tasting experience with Word of Messiah Ministries!

Their founder and President, Sam Nadler, is a Jewish believer in Jesus. He will lead us through "The Messiah in the Passover," as we learn more about Jewish tradition during this holy festival and how it points us to Jesus. Dinner (deli sandwiches, chips & drinks) will be available from 5:00pm – 5:45pm on a donation basis. **So that we may adequately prepare, please sign up in the Narthex by THIS SUNDAY, March 26!**

JOY GROUP

will meet Friday, **March 31st at noon** at China Grove Family Restaurant. (216 South Main St, China Grove.) Limited Transportation is available. Please sign up in the Narthex if you want to attend and indicate if transportation is needed. Meet at the church at 11:30am if you need a ride.



Samaritan's Purse is responding to the recent earthquakes that rocked Turkey and Syria.

They immediately began to mobilize disaster relief and have deployed a 52-bed field hospital with 2 emergency operating rooms, and a pharmacy. If you would like to give towards their efforts, please mark your donation (online or in the offering plate) for "Earthquake Relief" by THIS Sunday, March 26.

Women of all ages
are invited to a Spring Luncheon
on April 1 from 12-2pm,
featuring special guest Chelsea Cooley Clark,



Miss USA 2005! Chelsea will speak on her reign as Miss USA, her walk with Christ, and what it means to be *Authentically Loved* - the title of a Journal she authored. Tickets are \$25, which includes lunch, dessert, and an autographed copy of *Authentically Loved*. The last day to register is THIS Sunday, March 26th. Please register via the announcement on our website - www.firstpresb.org - or by filling out the form in the bulletin and returning it to the church office with your payment. See Renee Goodnight for more information.



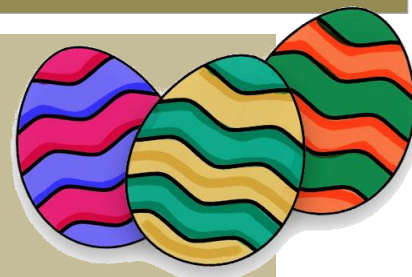
Join us for special services
with Kimball Lutheran during
Holy Week!

Thursday, April 6 @ 6:30pm - Communion Service
at First Presbyterian

Friday, April 7 @ 6:30pm - Musical Worship Service
at Kimball Lutheran

Journey Youth are invited to an Easter
Celebration and Easter egg hunt on

Saturday, April 8 from 10am - 12pm! Lunch will be provided.
Please sign up in the Narthex!!!



Let's go out to the ballgame! First Pres has secured group tickets for the Cannon Ballers' game against Charleston on Sunday, April 23 at 1:00pm. Each ticket is \$11, which includes \$2 worth of "Baller Bucks" to be used at the stadium. See Michelle Walker to secure your spot!

You are invited to an authentic, Mexican Fiesta!

On Sunday, April 16, immediately following worship, the Missions Team will host a Mexican-themed luncheon to support our Mexico Missions Team. The menu will consist of: cheese quesadillas, chicken tamales, Mexican rice, black beans, guacamole, pico de gallo, and chips and salsa. The meal is provided on a donation basis. Proceeds will go towards projects at the Sitpatch School or supplies for the Missions Team.



We are transitioning to new items for our growing "fence ministry."

If you can donate any of the following, please see Kay McAllister: new or gently used ball caps; bug repellent; washcloths; toothbrushes & toothpaste; flashlights & batteries; shampoo; small hairbrushes; hair accessories (ties, bobby pins); feminine products; quart or gallon size plastic bags. Thank you for your support!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Church Family

Danny Bost - **battling cancer**
Hank Cranford - **health concerns**
Connie Lisenby - **recovery from back surgery**
Randy Childers - **back surgery**
Betty Sechler - **severe knee pain**
Donna Hancock - **surgery on April 21**

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF Church Family

Mae Ackerman (Roxanne's mom) – **in Hospice care**
Kathy Joyce (friend of Jane Jacobs) - **battling cancer**
Ellen Morrison (Judy Hammond's friend) - **cancer**
Kimberly Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - **upcoming procedure**
Robert Little (Richard's brother) - **treatment for cancer**
Mike Allen (Bargers' family) - **beginning a 5 week radiation treatment at Emory**
Buddy Troutman (Judy Hammond's family) - **health concerns**
David Buckland (friend of Sparks) - **young man battling lymphoma**

HOMEBOUND

Shirley Faust - **TerraBella in Salisbury**
Peggy Barnhardt - **Morningside**
Barbara Hancock - **home**
Iris Efird - **home**
Barbara Wise - **Oaks at Hampton, Cummings, Georgia**
Loretta Young - **Five Oaks**

THANK YOU

Thank you all for the cards and notes Ralph has received in the past weeks. It was so kind of you and we certainly appreciated them, as well as knowing that we were being lifted up in your prayers. It truly means a lot! Ralph is doing very well now. He can be a little more active each day and continues physical therapy. Again, thank you for being such a blessing to us during this time. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can make it to NC for a visit and then we'll see you in church!

Ralph and Susan Caskey (aka Adam's Mom & Dad)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Hank and I have felt your prayers and he is getting stronger. We appreciate your outreach of love with all the cards, texts, calls, and meals.

May the Lord richly bless you as you have blessed us. Please continue to pray for us.

Love in Christ,

Sharon Cranford

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ryan Walker
Children's Message: Jenna Baker
Children's Message next week: Michelle Walker
Children's Church: Michelle Walker & Jenna Baker
Children's Church next week: Kay McAllister & Ella Sechler
Acolytes: Noah Walker & Caylin Lowder
Acolyte next week: Camryn Lowder & Evie Sechler
Nursery: Amy Hamilton
Nursery next week: Sharon Stricker
Ushers: Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder
Ushers next week: Sam McAllister, Mallory McDaniel, Todd Pless, Tony Rary
Greeters: Donnie Swaringen, Roxanne Spencer

FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY

YTD Income	\$48,230.45
YTD Expenses	\$46,492.47
YTD Budget	\$48,584.00

Last week's attendance: 3/19/23
Sunday School - 68
Worship -127

THIS WEEK@FIRST PRESB

Sunday, March 26 10 Cents a Meal

9:30am: Fellowship Breakfast
9:30am: Graceful Movements Rehearsal
9:45am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Sunday School
11:00am: Worship Service
12:15pm: Handbell Rehearsal

Monday, March 27

2:00pm: Dorcas Circle of Hope

Tuesday, March 28

12:00pm: NA
6:00pm: Grace & Gratitude Women's Circle

Wednesday, March 29

5:00: Fellowship Meal
5:30pm: Small Ensemble Rehearsal
6:00pm: "The Messiah in the Passover" Seder Meal Presentation

Thursday, March 30

10:30am: Ladies' Bible Study
12:00pm: NA

Friday, March 31

10:00am: Women's Luncheon Set -up in Fellowship Hall
12:00pm: Joy Group Luncheon @China Grove Family Restaurant

Saturday, April 1

12:00pm: Spring Women's Luncheon

Next Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday

9:30am: Fellowship Breakfast
9:30am: GraceFull Movements Rehearsal
9:45am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Sunday School
11:00am: Worship Service with Holy Communion
12:15pm: Handbell Rehearsal



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